

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2004*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote No. 347. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## REMEMBERING SERGEANT BRIAN M. WOOD

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2004*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to honor and pay tribute to one of my constituents who recently died serving his Nation in Iraq.

Sergeant Brian M. Wood was killed when his military vehicle pulled off the road and hit a mine while he was on patrol. Sergeant Wood was only 21 years old.

Brian Wood was assigned to the Army's 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, which is based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Mr. Speaker, Brian Wood sent an e-mail to his family less than 24 hours before his death and reported that he felt he was making a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people by locating and disarming land mines.

Mr. Speaker, Brian's family reports that he was a young man with tremendous personality and a great sense of humor.

I would like to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Brian Wood, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. Brian's honorable service to his country will be long remembered.

## TRIBUTE TO THE WOLNIAK BROTHERS

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of extraordinary individuals, the Wolniak brothers of Syracuse, New York. There are five brothers in all, Joseph, Michael, Nicholas, Andrew and Steven. The family migrated from the Ukraine in the early 20th century led by Matthew Wolniak, father of 10. What makes the brother's account so astonishing is the courage and dedication displayed during a time of great peril, World War II.

Joseph Wolniak served in the Illinois National Guard as a Private First Class. Michael Wolniak served five years as Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corps with the 65th Fgt. Sq. and 57th Fgt. Gp. Nicholas Wolniak served for over five years as a Private First Class in the 33rd Division, 130 Infantry, 1st Company. Andrew Wolniak served five years as a Private First Class in the 33rd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, E Company, 2nd Battalion.

And Steven Wolniak served several years as Corporal in the 125 AACs Sq.

The Wolniak brothers' were active in a variety of theaters ranging from India, New Guinea, the Philippines, the invasion of Japan, to the jungles of Burma. Needless to say, having five members of a family involved in wartime operations creates an atmosphere of stress and tension. Faced with these overwhelming set of circumstances, the Wolniak brothers knew freedom and democracy come at a cost and require sacrifice. Keeping this in mind, the brothers served their country with dignity and honor.

The most enjoyable part of this anecdote was the safe return of all five brothers from the European and Asian theatres. This phenomenon was almost unparalleled as the United States casualties exceeded 400,000 with the majority of American's experiencing a loss of a loved one.

I am proud to state that the Wolniak's are part of our Central New York community, as four of the brothers still reside in the Syracuse area. Nick, Mike, and Steve can still be seen at a local McDonald's for an early morning gathering while Andy remains in his DeWitt home.

Mr. Speaker, I say to those listening today, America owes a great debt to the Wolniak brothers and all who served during World War II. Had it not been for the valor and devotion of the Allied Powers, both Europe and America would be a very different place today.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM SHAFFER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to William Shaffer and thank him for his work as the Congressional Services Representative with the General Services Administration. His years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this Nation today. Along with my fellow Americans, I am grateful for all that he has accomplished during his years of service.

William was born in Pennsylvania and served in the U.S. Air Force in Denver, Colorado, before going on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 1973. He began his federal career with the Veterans Administration hospital in Hot Springs, South Dakota as a Recreation Therapist. After pursuing further training with the Veterans Affairs Personnel Administration Training Program, he worked as a Personnel Specialist in Maryland, Utah, Wyoming, Kentucky and finally Denver, Colorado.

In 1991, William moved to the General Services Administration as the Personnel Liaison at the Denver Federal Center, and later for the entire Rocky Mountain region. He was responsible for the Region's Congressional Support Program working to provide support services to ninety-six U.S. House of Representatives district offices and U.S. Senators State offices in Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, and South Dakota. These support services included procurement

of office furniture, equipment and supplies, maintenance and rehabilitation; property disposal; storage and relocation. William is also an ordained Pastor with the Presbyterian Church. In his spare time, he enjoys playing softball and volunteers at a Denver intercity food pantry.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that William Shaffer has been an invaluable resource to the General Services Administration and it is my honor to recognize his service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with devoted public servants like William Shaffer. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment he has given to the General Services Administration and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for his years of enthusiastic service.

## A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND GUN HA SONG

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Gun Ha Song in recognition of his business accomplishments and spiritual leadership in the community.

Reverend Song came to the United States in 1979. He founded the Good Pickin' store in 1982 and he continues to manage it successfully today. Reverend Song is the president of the Korean Association of Brooklyn.

Reverend Song's passion is his faith. He leads his congregation in Brooklyn. In preparation of his pastoral duties, Reverend Song has studied extensively, earning advanced degrees in the area of religious thought. He has earned a Masters Degree of S.B.E. Christian Education. He received an additional Masters Degree from Chongshin Theological Seminary. Finally, Reverend Song also holds a Doctor of Christian Education from Cumberland University.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gun Ha Song came to this country about 25 years ago and has made several contributions to this country through his entrepreneurial spirit and spiritual leadership. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

## HONORING THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the contributions of Chicago's Irish American Heritage Center toward preserving the glorious heritage and culture of Chicago's Irish community, on the occasion of its Annual Irish Fest.

The Irish American Heritage Center continues to be an integral part of the Irish Community in Chicago. The Annual Irish American Heritage Festival on July 9th, 10th, and 11th will showcase many of the great traditions and